

EDITORIAL



Africa In Today's World

By C. I. West, M.D.

Our Africa column is suspended for this week to allow our readers the time to keep up with the Current News of sporadic revolt and unrest in many areas. Our recent writings predicted this problem in commenting on the coup d' etat in Zanzibar.

C. I. West, M.D.

Leo "The Lion" Kuykendall Roared Last Week

Dear Mr. Kuykendall:

Who are the subversives, and who are the demagogues? We would like to have this information from your secret files so that we can clean our own house.

The witnesses of the Christmas Eve incident on Jackson St. claimed that two of your officers were the ones who created the poor image of the Police Dept. Your own men were the ones guilty of undermining the Las Vegas Police Dept.

The "Cold War subversives" were only relating the facts of the Christmas Eve atrocity. These same people appeared as witnesses before a court of law on Jan. 21, 1964, and that court believed the "utterly false" charges made by those subversives, by finding both Ozell Heckard and Homer Williams "not guilty" of the charges that caused one of your police officers to break a night stick over the head of Homer Williams.

Mr. K. I can tell you how to curb the crime, drug traffic, prostitution and other undesirable traits of West Las Vegas, much easier than you can accomplish the same in the rest of Las Vegas. The solution lies in removal of the cause. The cause lies in the status of second class citizenship that has been imposed upon Westside residents by the society from which you were spawned.

If you, Mr. K., can go to "your society" and have that society include non-caucasian brothers in its application of the Golden Rule, I assure you that we publicity seeking demagogues, who are attempting to remove the stigma of second class from the Negro, would have no reason to exist.

Mr. K., if you can get "your people" straight, you will have no problem with "my people." "My people," who in reality are "your people," live as they do because "your people" will not let them live any other way. We Negroes do not create the ghetto. We have no choice, for "your people" force "my people" to live in this place of your creation. We do not impose job restrictions upon ourselves, nor do we impose lower educational, social, and economic standards upon ourselves. Your people are guilty of all of these impositions and gross inequities.

Take a good look at what you see when you shave each morning. You will see a product of a society that is directly responsible for every distasteful trait that your prejudiced eyes behold in men of color. Take a second look, and give that image you see "down the Country" for creating the criminal elements that exist in every ghetto, everywhere.

The Negro is a product of your society. If you are ashamed of him, place the blame of this shame where it belongs -- right in your own lap.

You slipped, Leo, when you were quoted as saying, "There is a handful of agitators, many of whom

Nevada Equal Rights Commission in Hawthorne

By Bob Bailey

One gets the feeling in walking into the Mineral County Courthouse, place of the recent hearing of the NERC; (Nevada Equal Rights Commission) of being in the old west -- the courtroom in which the hearing took place could very easily be a motion picture set in a replica of the early 19th century roaring west. In these antiquated surroundings, filled with local businessmen, county commissioners and other public officials, one felt that it was a Hollywood set for a western movie.

Chairman of the Commission, Bob Bailey, handled the swearing in of witnesses, and the most of the interrogation. It was brought out that the discriminatory practices of the majority of the businessmen there did not necessarily represent the feeling of the white community. However, there is a fear that is detected in this town. The Smith Brothers, with their segregated policy at the El Capitan Hotel, have set the general discriminatory pattern for other places of public accommodations. Until the Smith Brothers change, are brought into line with democratic principles of freedom and equality for all citizens, Hawthorne will continue to bring shame to Nevada.

The feeling one gets, while listening to the testimony of various local officials, brings back the story of how the dominated people of Europe must have felt during the reign of Hitler. It is quite feasible that the Negro of Hawthorne because of local discriminatory practices, could be brainwashed into a frightened state of acceptability to second class position. However, it becomes a very serious situation when the Caucasian, in a white man's world, accepts a second class position for fear of economic reprisals. Such an atmosphere gives one the feeling that the democratic structure, under which this republic was founded, is being threatened.

The Equal Rights Commission made strong suggestions that a Human Relations Committee be established whereby all racial, ethnic and religious groups could start working out a program by which a better understanding of problems peculiar to each group, could be realized. Knowing this will not be the only solution towards full class citizenship for all in Hawthorne, but believing that this can in fact become a starting point to the breakdown of antiquated, discriminatory practices, it will be a beginning in the right direction.

During the interrogation of the witnesses subpoenaed, one could glance in the audience and see evidence that the average white person and Negro in the audience felt a certain kinship as opposed to the scene one would expect from the evident atmosphere of segregation which exists in Hawthorne. One begins to get the feeling that the problem of Hawthorne proper is not as challenging as the appearances of the situation would indicate. One also gets the feeling that once dictator Smith, and blind hatred of equality for all, has been destroyed, the Negroes and whites of this little town in Nevada could emerge as peaceful and democratic as any town in Nevada could expect. There is a responsibility in Hawthorne, that the Negro himself must take. Commissions and pressures from without can only serve to implement their efforts, but until they themselves stand up and demand an equal position in their community, all outside efforts will be to little avail.

The thinking of most of the businessmen and elected officials is that they are not going to put themselves out on that proverbial limb, until the Negroes themselves have shown the same zest that other non-caucasians throughout the world have shown and are showing in their quest for full equality.

It leads one to wonder how the town of Hawthorne has been allowed to maintain its old patterns while the rest of the state is striving to correct the old dixie system of a democratic society.

In the final analysis, Hawthorne, still is a city of fear on the part of both white and colored. Until Hawthorne falls in line with the progress being made in this state, in the field of Civil Rights, Nevada shall continue to reflect a poor national image. We shall continue to be embarrassed by the incidents of discrimination that Hawthorne practices. Until all people of this state, both whites and colored, stand up to the Lindsey Smiths of Hawthorne, the Jack Streeters of Reno, the Abe Millers of Las Vegas, and demand compliance with the principle of equality for all, Nevada will be counted with the Alabamas, the Louisianas, the Georgias and the Mississippis as castigators of America's character.

have criminal records -- that certainly would not be accepted in "our society." This statement, though carefully planned and prepared, reflects your background of a dual society. It is your heritage to think in terms of a White Society and a Black Society. Such thinking is the most subversive thinking that can happen in a democratic society, and you had the audacity to refer to us as subversive.

Since you and "your society" have forced upon

Message From Willie Bryant

Dear Voice Readers;

If this article sounds like flowers being tossed in the direction of the Editor and Publisher of your favorite newspaper, the Las Vegas Voice, you are right. I've known Dr. Charles West for many years, not in a Doctor -- Patient relationship, but as a friend. Many of us in the Entertainment world know him as a friend. To all behind the stage footlights he has always held out a helping hand to the little man, not that he favored entertainers more than Joe Q. Public. There are many laymen who feel the same about "Buck" as he is known. His lovely wife, Dottie, was one of the most beautiful dancing girls who ever graced the stages of theaters around the world. She like her better half, was known for her help to new girls who started in chorus lines, and it was, and always will be, important to young girls seeking a career behind the footlights. We can honestly say we are tossing flowers at both Dr. & Mrs. West. Over the years, "Buck still has not lost his sense of humor - I write about Buck & Dottie because people who know me know that I have lived not by what I do because I have had a great deal of success, but because of people I know and how nice they make it for us who are in a business that many frown upon.

Many performers have gone from show business into the ministry, into Welfare Work, Public Relations, and all other kinds of business that the average Mr. & Mrs. America deal with daily. There are many in our business who never appreciate anything that others do for them I have seen many who take and take and the first time you don't help them they split without a thank you, or with "it was nice while it lasted." Sure this hurts the giver but it never seems to hurt the taker. All this may not make sense to a lot of readers. You might say, "What does all this mean to me" - Well it means that from time to time I hope to do feature stories on many of the celebrities with their photo. I'd like for you to cut them out and make your own personal scrap book so the young ones growing up in your family will have thumb nail sketches of many of our great artists so if at anytime as they grow up and are old enough to discuss the important contributions the Negro made in the field of entertainment they can talk with authority, as well as a ringing sound of prouddness. We don't have a Negro wax museum that I know of and if we don't keep a record of our own in a short time the Negro just might be forgotten. We can trace almost everything in Rhythm and Soul singing to the Negro. If there is anyone in show business you'd like to know about, drop me a letter in care of the Voice, I'll do some research if I have to and give you the low down -- it may take a little time, but I'll get around to it. Many youngsters are interested in getting into show business, or making records, if I can advise you, drop me a line. Kids are very anxious to make a name for themselves and if they have talent, some talent scout will sign them up. In many cases, these kids sign their lives away, so to speak. To avoid this sort of thing, kids, if I can ever be of help in that capacity, please let me know. I'll give my answers and advise in the Voice without using names. Never forget your newspaper. In more ways than one it can be a great help to its readers. You are not just readers, some of you make the news for the readers that is why we want you to write to us and voice your opinion about anything you feel will be interesting to the community. You really are the voice of the "Voice." Bye now, till later.

Publisher's Note: The Voice is negotiating to bring in Willie Bryant, old pro of the show world, and of the fourth estate, to take over direction of this publication.

*We have found wealth
when we have found enjoyment
in unbought pleasures*

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